



MIAMI BEACH

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
NO. LTC # 280-2007

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti H. Bower and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager
DATE: December 13¹⁷, 2007
SUBJECT: Beach Renourishment

The purpose of this LTC is to provide the Mayor and City Commission with an update on the efforts to identify a source of sand for continued renourishment of the City's beaches.

Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Miami-Dade County, and the City of Miami Beach have long discussed the exhaustion of the traditional sand borrow pits used to renourish the Miami-Dade County beach system and the possibility of acquiring compatible sand from a foreign source as a solution.

Unfortunately, Congress included language in the 1999 FY Energy and Water Conference Report which states that no federal funds may be provided for the Dade County project to acquire foreign source materials until the Secretary of the Army provides written certification that domestic sources are not available. As a result of this 1999 language, all efforts to locate and acquire sand from a foreign source were halted, and the USACE began a study to determine the availability of a domestic sand source.

Recent Activity

The City of Miami Beach attended a meeting with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul Woodley and other Army Corps of Engineers officials on June 27, 2007, in the office of Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. Also in attendance were Representative Debbie Wasserman-Schultz and staff from other Members of the Florida Delegation. During the meeting, USACE officials indicated that the Letter Report regarding domestic sand sources was undergoing concurrent review, and would most likely arrive in the Secretary's Office in late October for final approval.

On October 31, 2007, I submitted LTC No. 241-2007, transmitting a copy of correspondence from the South Atlantic Division of the USACE, rejecting the draft Letter Report submitted by the Jacksonville office of the USACE. That correspondence stated that the Letter Report recommending the acquisition of foreign source sand was incomplete.

Subsequently, on November 1, 2007, Congresswomen Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Debbie Wasserman-Schultz sent a follow-up letter to Secretary Woodley expressing their disappointment with the rejection and requesting another meeting between the USACE and the Florida Congressional delegation. Additionally, the City, through our federal lobbyists, requested that Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz include language in the 2008 Energy and Water Conference Report directing the USACE to *identify a compatible sand source and begin acquisition no later than March 1, 2008.*

The meeting requested by Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen took place yesterday, December 12, 2007, at the U.S. Capitol. In attendance on behalf of the USACE were Assistant Secretary John Paul Woodley, as well as Colonel Paul Grosskruger and Jerry Scarborough, both from the Jacksonville office of the USACE. Members of Congress in attendance were Representatives Ros-Lehtinen, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart, and Ron Klein, as well as staff from the offices of Senators Martinez and Nelson, and Representatives Wasserman-Schultz, Mahoney, Buchanan, Boyd, Meek, and Crenshaw. Additionally, staff from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, who's ranking Republican Member is Florida Congressman John Mica, were also in attendance. Joining the members and staff were representatives of the City of Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County, Broward County, and Governor Crist's office.

During the meeting, Assistant Secretary Woodley informed the group that on December 10, 2007, he sent the attached letter to the Director of Civil Works, approving the use of all sources, foreign and domestic, for the Miami-Dade County Beach Erosion Control Project; that the requirements of the 1999 Appropriations language had been satisfied; and that the USACE was to proceed as if that language had never existed.

The attached memorandum recommends a three-tiered approach:

1. Immediate release of 500,000 cubic yards of sand from the last offshore borrow site in Dade County, which was being held in reserve;
2. Immediately begin all necessary National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coordination for the identification and acquisition of foreign sand; and
3. Evaluate the remaining Florida coastal domestic sand sources through a comprehensive regional management plan to address the longer term renourishment needs of Florida's Atlantic Coast.

USACE officials informed the group that funding is already in place for steps 1 and 2, and that they expect the NEPA process for a foreign source to take place within two years. In the meantime, they will initiate the process for placement of the 500,000 cubic yards of offshore sand.

This directive by the Assistant Secretary is the culmination of a nine-year effort and represents the removal of the most significant obstacle to renourishing the City's beaches. This could not have been accomplished without the support and effort of the Florida Congressional delegation, especially Congresswomen Ros-Lehtinen and Wasserman-Schultz.

The Administration will continue to work with Miami-Dade County and USACE officials as this project proceeds, and provide the Mayor and City Commission with updates as they become available. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

JMG/RCM/ke

Attachment

C: Bob Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
Fred Beckmann, Public Works
Kevin Crowder, Economic Development



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

DEC 10 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL WORKS

SUBJECT: Dade County, Florida Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project Letter Report

This is in response to the December 7, 2007 memorandum from CECW-SAD regarding the long term renourishment needs for Dade County, Florida. The subject report was prepared in response to Section 935 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 and the Conference Report accompanying the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1999. This action was initiated to investigate sand resources to provide for periodic nourishment and emergency replenishment at the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project. Section 935 of WRDA 1986 authorized the Secretary to acquire by purchase, or exchange, non-domestic sources of sand to be utilized for beach replenishment, if viable materials were not available from domestic sources for environmental or economic reasons. The letter report was prepared to evaluate whether domestic sources were available in adequate volumes. My staff participated in concurrent review of the letter report with the HQUSACE policy compliance review team.

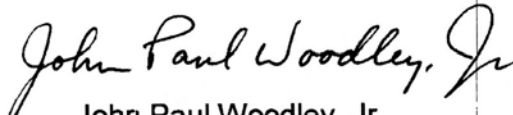
The report documented that Dade County's offshore borrow areas have been nearly depleted because more material has been required for renourishment than originally estimated in the General Design Memorandum. Currently, one borrow area containing about 500,000 cubic yards of material is available offshore of Dade County. The report has identified that a total of about 4 million cubic yards of sand may be available from various domestic sites. These combined volumes, however, are not adequate to supply the approximately 12 million cubic yards of material needed over the next 25 years.

Additional nearby domestic sand sources, located in other counties were presented as unusable because of potential negative hydrologic and environmental impacts. However, the resource agency letters accompanying the package indicated that specific studies would be needed to conclusively document these impacts. Given the shortage of available domestic sand sources, the Jacksonville District concluded that non-domestic sand sources would be needed to provide enough sand for long term renourishment.

The CECW-SAD RIT recommended a three-tiered approach to resolve Dade County's immediate need for sand and to propose a longer-term plan for future sand replenishment needs. First, the 500,000 cubic yards of material in SGC-Ext 1 would be

considered for placement at the project to begin to restore the project profile. Additional nearby material from the smaller borrow sources should also be utilized, if the material is appropriate and meets standards for the project. Second, the study should incorporate an examination of the viability of non-domestic sand sources for intermediate and longer-term renourishment needs. This examination would include all necessary National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coordination and completion of an appropriate NEPA document. Finally, in addition to non-domestic sand sources, the remaining Florida coastal domestic sand sources should be evaluated through a comprehensive regional management plan to address the longer term renourishment needs along the Atlantic coast of Florida.

I concur that the three-tiered approach, as outlined above, be implemented to resolve Dade County's long term sand replenishment issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Paul Woodley, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "P".

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)